

Taylor's concert has touch of class

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outgoing in between songs. He introduced most of the songs and even joked a bit with the audience.

CERTAINLY James Taylor is a fixture of popular music but his professional pride keeps him from getting stagnant. His live performances add new arrangements to old standards without diluting the original flavor. The new songs fit in comfortably and the spirit was the highest I've ever seen at a Taylor concert.

The performance consisted of more than 20 songs, drawing material from nearly all of his nine albums. There wasn't a mediocre song in either set, which is unusual for any performer. J.T. has always had a class sound but his live performances display a broader scope than do his recordings. Several artists have found platinum from recording live albums and certainly the folks from Columbia must have thought about a live James Taylor album. Well, you blew it! Sunday's concert would have been one fine performance to have on tape.

Meadow Brook benefit starring Victor Borge

Box office favorite Victor Borge, Ernie Jones on the podium, the Oakway Symphony in the pit and the summer setting of Meadow Brook Music Festival add up to the Borge at Meadow Brook Benefit, 8:30 p.m. Monday, July 16.

A sell-out crowd is expected, but lawn seats are still available. For further information call Meadow Brook Music Festival at 377-2010.

Borge is a long-time friend of Ernie Jones, international chairman of D'Arcy MacManus & MacManus Advertising and recently in the news for leading the successful campaign to bring the Super Bowl to Pontiac Silverdome. Jones is also an accomplished musician with close ties to many area symphony orchestras and a long list of credits conducting here and abroad. When Borge planned the benefit, it was a natural for him to ask Jones to conduct the community orchestra as part of the program.

WITH BERGE on stage, not even his fellow performers know what the zany musician will include or throw out of the evening's plans. Jones will be a

standing target for hilarious verbal assault when he directs orchestral accompaniment for Borge's piano madness.

Even Oakway's selections for uninterrupted performance aren't completely safe from spontaneous disruption and ad libs. Conductor Francesco D'Elia will direct compositions by D'Elia, Smetana, Lehar, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and Bernstein.

Proceeds from this concert will benefit Meadow Brook Hall and Meadow Brook Music Festival, both cultural functions of Oakland University.

Meadow Brook Hall is the former home of Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, on whose estate Oakland University was founded. Built 50 years ago at the cost of \$4 million, the 100-room, Tudor-style mansion is now open to the public for tours, conferences and cultural programs.

Meadow Brook Music Festival opened in 1964, featuring internationally acclaimed artists. Known for the beauty of its wooded hillside setting and for its acoustics.

What's on the Weekend

IN THE SUBURBS

● **PINE KNOB MUSIC THEATER** — Shaun Cassidy at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12. George Benson at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 13-14. Call Pine Knob Hotline at 647-7790, for ticket information.

● **MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL** — Detroit Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leonard Slatkin, with pianist Louis Lefebvre, at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12. Leonard Slatkin conducting Detroit Symphony Orchestra, with pianist Walter Klien at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14. Detroit Symphony Pops with Eric Knight conducting and Ethel Merman in "Who Could Ask for Anything More?" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 15. Box office, 377-2010.

● **KISS** — In concert at 8 p.m. Friday, July 13, at Pontiac Silverdome. Also appearing will be Cheap Trick. For tickets, call the box office at 857-8000.

● **THE RAVEN GALLERY** — Mike and Barbara Smith through Sunday, July 22. Showtime Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 9:30 and 11 p.m. Further information at 557-2822.

● **SOMERSET DINNER THEATER** — "Good Time Revue," a musical memory, presented by Jimmy Lounce Productions, Inc. Performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8:45 p.m. with buffet by Alfred's Restaurant served at 7:30 p.m. Phone 643-8855, for reservations.

IN DETROIT

● **HART PLAZA** — The Italian Ethnic Festival is July 13-15 at the plaza in downtown Detroit. Hours are 6-11 p.m. on Fridays and noon to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

● **THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS** — "The Original Bluegrass Opera" on Sunday, July 15, at 10 and 11:30 a.m. in Kresge Court. Reservations required; call 832-2730.

● **HILLBERRY THEATER** — "Absurd Person Singular," a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, Thursday-Saturday, July 12-14, at 8:30 p.m. Phone 577-2972, for tickets and information.

● **ATTIC THEATER** — "Steam Bath," a comedy about the limbo between life and death, opens Friday, July 13, and runs until Sept. 1. Performances at 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. For reservations and ticket information, call 963-7789.

● **RENAISSANCE CENTER** — Good Old Summertime Social Thursday-Sunday, July 12-15, presented by the Detroit Plaza Hotel. Ice cream comes served by the lake, with banjo and barbershop music. Also on Friday, July 13, come and dance to the disco beat on the roof.

Poetess

Deborah Richardson of Birmingham will appear in period costume for a poetry reading at 8 p.m. Monday, July 16, in Room B200 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Both Ms. Richardson and Art Lindenberg of Ann Arbor will be in costume to read works of various poets.

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